

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A submerged processing device for a photosensitive material, the submerged processing device being disposed at a partitioning wall which is provided within a processing tank main body and which is between processing chambers respectively storing a processing liquid, the submerged processing device comprising:

 a housing at an interior of which is formed a processing space in which the processing liquid is stored;

 a photosensitive material conveying path which is for conveying-in of the photosensitive material and which is formed in the housing so as to communicate with an interior of the processing space;

 a photosensitive material conveying path which is for conveying-out of the photosensitive material and which is formed in the housing so as to communicate with the interior of the processing space;

 a processing liquid passage preventing mechanism disposed at each of the photosensitive material conveying paths such that only the photosensitive material passes therethrough; and

 a processing liquid changing mechanism provided at the housing, for changing the processing liquid stored in the processing space.

2. (original): A submerged processing device for a photosensitive material, the submerged processing device being disposed at a partitioning wall which is provided within a processing tank main body and which is between processing chambers respectively storing a processing liquid, the submerged processing device comprising:

a housing at an interior of which is formed a processing space in which the processing liquid is stored;

a photosensitive material conveying path which is for conveying-in of the photosensitive material and which is formed in the housing so as to communicate with an interior of the processing space;

a photosensitive material entrance side driving roller for conveying, disposed in a vicinity of an entrance of the photosensitive material conveying path which is for the conveying-in of the photosensitive material;

a photosensitive material conveying path which is for conveying-out of the photosensitive material and which is formed in the housing so as to communicate with the interior of the processing space;

a photosensitive material exit side driving roller for conveying, disposed in a vicinity of an exit of the photosensitive material conveying path which is for the conveying-out of the photosensitive material, the photosensitive material exit side driving roller for conveying being a driving roller which is disposed firstly at a conveying direction downstream side of the photosensitive material entrance side driving roller for conveying;

a processing liquid passage preventing mechanism disposed at each of the photosensitive material conveying paths such that only the photosensitive material passes therethrough; and

a processing liquid changing mechanism provided at the housing, for changing the processing liquid stored in the processing space.

3. (original): A submerged processing device for a photosensitive material, the submerged processing device being disposed at a partitioning wall which is provided within a processing tank main body and which is between processing chambers respectively storing a processing liquid, the submerged processing device comprising:

a housing at an interior of which is formed a processing space in which the processing liquid is stored;

a photosensitive material conveying path which is for conveying-in of the photosensitive material and which is formed in the housing so as to communicate with an interior of the processing space;

a photosensitive material entrance side driving roller for conveying, disposed in a vicinity of an entrance of the photosensitive material conveying path which is for the conveying-in of the photosensitive material;

a photosensitive material conveying path which is for conveying-out of the photosensitive material and which is formed in the housing so as to communicate with the interior of the processing space;

a photosensitive material exit side driving roller for conveying, disposed in a vicinity of an exit of the photosensitive material conveying path which is for the conveying-out of the photosensitive material, the photosensitive material exit side driving roller for conveying being a driving roller which is disposed firstly at a conveying direction downstream side of the photosensitive material entrance side driving roller for conveying;

a blade provided so as to close and seal a slit hole forming the photosensitive material conveying path, and squeezing the photosensitive material passing through the slit hole by slidingly-contacting the photosensitive material, and preventing passage of the processing liquid;

a liquid flow-in structure, mounted to a position of the housing at one longitudinal direction end portion side of the processing space, for causing the processing liquid to flow-in in a direction opposite to a conveying direction of the photosensitive material; and

a liquid flow-out structure, mounted to a position of the housing at another longitudinal direction end portion side of the processing space, for causing the processing liquid to flow-out in the direction opposite to the conveying direction of the photosensitive material.

4. (original): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim 3, wherein the liquid flow-in structure comprises a check valve.

5. (original): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim 3, wherein the liquid flow-out structure comprises a check valve.

6. (currently amended): A submerged processing device for a photosensitive material having a submerged processing chamber, comprising:

an entrance closing member provided in processing liquid at an upstream side, and closing a path at an upstream side of the submerged processing chamber along which path a photosensitive material passes, and permitting entry of the photosensitive material into the submerged processing chamber by elastically deforming;

an exit closing member provided in processing liquid at a downstream side, and closing a path at a downstream side of the submerged processing chamber along which path the photosensitive material passes, and permitting withdrawal of the photosensitive material from the submerged processing chamber by elastically deforming; and

a storing portion formed between the entrance closing member and the exit closing member;

wherein a check valve, which makes processing liquid flow through in a direction opposite to a conveying direction of the photosensitive material, is provided at the storing portion.

7. (original): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim 6, wherein the entrance closing member and the exit closing member are formed by blades.

8. (original): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim 6, wherein the entrance closing member and the exit closing member are formed by rollers.

9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim ~~9~~6, wherein at least two check valves are provided.

11. (original): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim 6, wherein the entrance closing member and the exit closing member are disposed in a vertical direction so as to be parallel to one another.

12. (original): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim 7, wherein the entrance closing member and the exit closing member are disposed at predetermined angles with respect to a path of the submerged processing chamber along which path the photosensitive material passes.

13. (original): A submerged processing device for a photosensitive material, comprising:
a processing tank main body storing a processing liquid;
at least two pairs of conveying rollers which are for nipping and conveying a photosensitive material, and which are disposed so as to be separated from one another by an interval in a conveying direction within the processing liquid in the processing tank main body;
and

rollers for sealing disposed between each of the conveying rollers and inner walls of the processing tank main body, and forming a processing chamber by partitioning an interior of the processing tank main body such that the processing liquid does not flow in or out of the processing chamber.

14. (original): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim 13, wherein the conveying rollers and the rollers for sealing are disposed so as to be parallel to one another within the processing tank main body.

15. (original): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim 13, wherein the interval is a distance which is shorter than a shortest length of the photosensitive material in the conveying direction.

16. (currently amended): A submerged processing device for a photosensitive material, comprising:

an entrance blade attached to a first main body member structuring a housing;
an exit blade attached to a second main body member structuring the housing; and
a storing portion structured by the entrance blade, the exit blade and inner walls of the housing, and storing a processing liquid therein,

wherein the entrance blade permits entry of the photosensitive material into the storing portion by elastically deforming, and the exit blade permits withdrawal of the photosensitive material from the storing portion by elastically deforming; and

wherein at least one check valve, which makes processing liquid flow through in a direction opposite to a conveying direction of the photosensitive material, is provided at the storing portion.

17. (original): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim 16, wherein the housing is structured by integrally engaging the first main body member and the second main body member.

18. (canceled).

19. (original): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim 16, wherein the entrance blade and the exit blade are disposed in a vertical direction so as to be parallel to one another.

20. (original): The submerged processing device for a photosensitive material of claim 16, wherein the entrance blade and the exit blade are disposed at predetermined angles with respect to a path of the storing portion along which path the photosensitive material passes.